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ABSTRACT

Data from a survey of Illinois residents are used in this report to determine the extent and distribution of crime in the State. Specific areas addressed include: (1) the extent of two types of crime, violent crime and property crime, and which is the more predominant; (2) whether crime in Illinois is an urban or rural problem: (3) social characteristics of the victims (young or old, male or female, rich or poor, white or nonwhite, house or apartment dwellers); and (4) how victimization rates vary geographically. Data obtained from the survey relating to each of these areas are presented and discussed. Appendices provide details of the survey methods and a profile of respondents. (EB)

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Crime Victimization in Illinois

the citizens' perspective

Special Series 4

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ILLINOIS:
today and
tomorrow

A Statewide Study by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

UD019948

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INTRODUCTION

This report is one of a series of publications that report the findings from the ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow project. ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow is a statewide survey of public opinion conducted by researchers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1978. The study covers a wide range of issues, including local community problems, land-use preferences, taxation, energy conservation, consumer problems, educational policies, and a variety of economic, environmental, and social policy questions. The purpose of the survey is to provide state and community leaders with information that can help them make better decisions based upon public expression and priorities.

A sample of 15,000 Illinois residents was scientifically drawn to represent all adults in the state. An additional 2,500 people were added to the state sample to allow for analysis in sparsely populated Cooperative Extension Service regions and counties. Questionnaires were mailed during January, February, and March, 1978; and nearly 10,000 Illinois residents responded. This response provided one completed and usable questionnaire for each 914 adults in the state, a response rate of 68.6 percent. Details of the survey methods are given in Appendix A, and a profile of respondents is provided in Appendix B.

The Purpose of This Report

As part of the ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow survey, respondents were asked if they had been the victims of crime during the previous year. This report presents the answers of adult citizens throughout the state to this question--crime victimization information that has never before been collected in the state of Illinois.

This report has the following purposes:

1. To provide an indication of the extent of two types of crime--violent crime and property crime--and to determine if one type is predominant

2. To provide a picture of the distribution of crime in Illinois, e.g., if it is a city or metropolitan problem, or if it is a rural problem
3. To examine the social characteristics of the victims, e.g., if they are old or young, male or female, rich or poor, white or nonwhite, house or apartment dwellers
4. To detail the distribution of crime in the 10 state Extension Service regions, e.g., how victimization rates vary geographically

Potential Users of This Report

This report presents a detailed picture of the extent and distribution of crime in Illinois based on reported victimizations. It provides a factual information base that can be useful to citizens, state and local agencies, civic groups, and officials, such as the following:

1. State and local law-enforcement agencies and advisory groups
2. Educational groups seeking to identify problems and develop information programs toward finding solutions
3. Community program-development and planning groups and agencies dealing with clients such as the disadvantaged and the aging
4. Voluntary associations and citizen-interest groups

THE PROBLEM OF CRIME

Crime is one of the most-feared yet least-understood elements in the development of modern urban society. Public-opinion polls consistently report that people see crime as a major problem, particularly in urban areas. Spectacular and perverted crimes, as documented in the newspapers and the electronic media, are continually before the general public. In addition, legal decisions by both the Supreme Court and lesser courts have contributed to some confusion about the rights of criminals and the rights of their victims. Law-enforcement officials have emphasized detecting and developing deterrents to crime. Criminologists have been concerned with who criminals are, what socio-cultural environment shapes them, and the setting for their crimes. Official statistics published by the FBI and other crime-reporting organizations have shown increases over the past years in crimes reported to the police and other law-enforcement agencies. Thus, although recent figures indicate that crime rates may actually be leveling off, citizen concern for crime as a local problem remains high.

Although the subject has long been ignored, some sociologists have recently shifted their research to the persons victimized by the criminals. A subfield of study called *victimology* has emerged that attempts to locate differences between victims and nonvictims of crime. Estimates from victimization surveys have shown that crime actually occurs at a rate from two to ten times higher than the reported incidence of crime as based on police-FBI statistics.

This report is concerned solely with the victims of crime, focusing on persons who report having been victims of either violent or property crimes, rather than on perception of crime as a problem in the community. The question in the ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow study was presented as follows:

> How many times in the past year (1977) have you been the victim of crime? (If none, indicate "0.")
>
> a. Violent crime (such as assault, armed robbery, rape) ____#
>
> b. Property crime (such as larceny, auto theft, burglary) ____#

Specific crimes within these two categories were suggested as prompts. Since the questions are quite general, however, the respondent's self-report depends on an individual definition of the victimization experience. It is probable, for instance, that, particularly in the property category, the respondent was thinking of other types of crime, such as vandalism.[1] Furthermore, the degree of seriousness or dollar-value loss is not known. The findings, however, provide useful information in developing a picture of the extent of crime in Illinois and the relative risk of being victimized in various locations throughout the state.

The findings are shown in terms of percentages of the population admitting to victimizations rather than in crime rates calculated on the total number of victimizations reported. If, however, such rates were calculated, they would be considerably higher than those appearing in the FBI statistics.

THE EXTENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF CRIME IN ILLINOIS

Statewide

On a statewide basis, 16.6 percent of the Illinois citizens surveyed admitted to being the victim of some type of crime in 1977, while 83.4 percent indicated that they had not been the victim of any crime (Table 1). Property crime accounts for most of this victimization, with 15.4 perecent of the respondents reporting at least one incident during the sample year, 2.4 percent admitting to being victims of a violent crime (such as assault, armed robbery, or rape), and 1.2 percent saying they had been victims of both.

Illinois Residence Categories

The state was divided for analysis purposes into five residence categories based on the extent of urbanization and proximity to Chicago. The five Illinois residence categories are: (1) Chicago (within the city boundaries only), (2) suburban Cook County (all of Cook County exclusive of the city of Chicago, (3)

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[1]Vandalism, the malicious destruction of property, is a common crime, especially in rural areas and the increase in vandalism was the crime concern most often mentioned in respondents' comments. Vandalism is seldom officially reported and is not included in the FBI tabulation of crimes known to the police (Part I offenses upon which standard crime rates are based).

Table 1. Percentage of Respondents Suffering Criminal Victimization in 1977

Residence	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both (percent)	Not a victim of any crime (percent)	Number of Cases*
State of Illinois	16.6	2.4	15.4	1.2	83.4	8268
Chicago	23.5	4.7	21.5	2.7	76.5	1955
Surburban Cook County	16.3	1.8	15.6	1.1	83.7	1692
Collar counties	15.2	1.9	14.3	1.0	84.8	1185
Outstate metropolitan areas	15.9	1.9	14.8	.7	84.1	1068
Nonmetropolitan areas	12.2	1.4	11.1	.3	87.8	2368

*Statewide proportional sample is based on 8268 responses.

collar counties (DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties), (4) outstate metropolitan areas (Springfield, Decatur, Peoria, Kankakee, Champaign-Urbana, Rock Island-Moline, Bloomington-Normal, Rockford, East St. Louis, and the built-up areas next to each), and (5) nonmetropolitan areas (small cities and towns, farms, and open country).

Chicago residents, as shown in Table 1, experienced almost twice as much property crime as persons living in nonmetropolitan areas; and violent crime is reported about three times as often by Chicago respondents as by persons in other areas. There appears to be little difference in crime victimization among persons living in suburban Cook County, the collar counties, and the outstate metropolitan areas. Respondents living in small cities and towns, in the open country, and on farms were least likely to report being a victim of crime. Thus the chances are about 1 in 4 that a Chicago resident will be the victim of a crime, whereas in rural areas the chances are about 1 in 8. In the Chicago suburban areas and in the large outstate cities the chances of victimization are about 1 in 6. Recent indications of increasing "suburbanization of crime" appear supported by these findings.

Figure 1 illustrates how disproportionately violent crime is experienced in Chicago's densely populated urban environment. Although Chicago had less than one-fourth of the population sampled, it contained almost one-half of the violent crime victimization. Property crime, however, is more evenly distributed according to population. Property crime in nonmetropolitan areas appears to be in some balance with the population in these areas, but it is not as low as might be expected according to commonly held ideas about safety in rural areas. These data could suggest that crime rates in rural areas are approaching the urban norm. As mentioned earlier, however, it is not possible here to distinguish the nature of the property victimization, and much of it may be minor theft or vandalism.

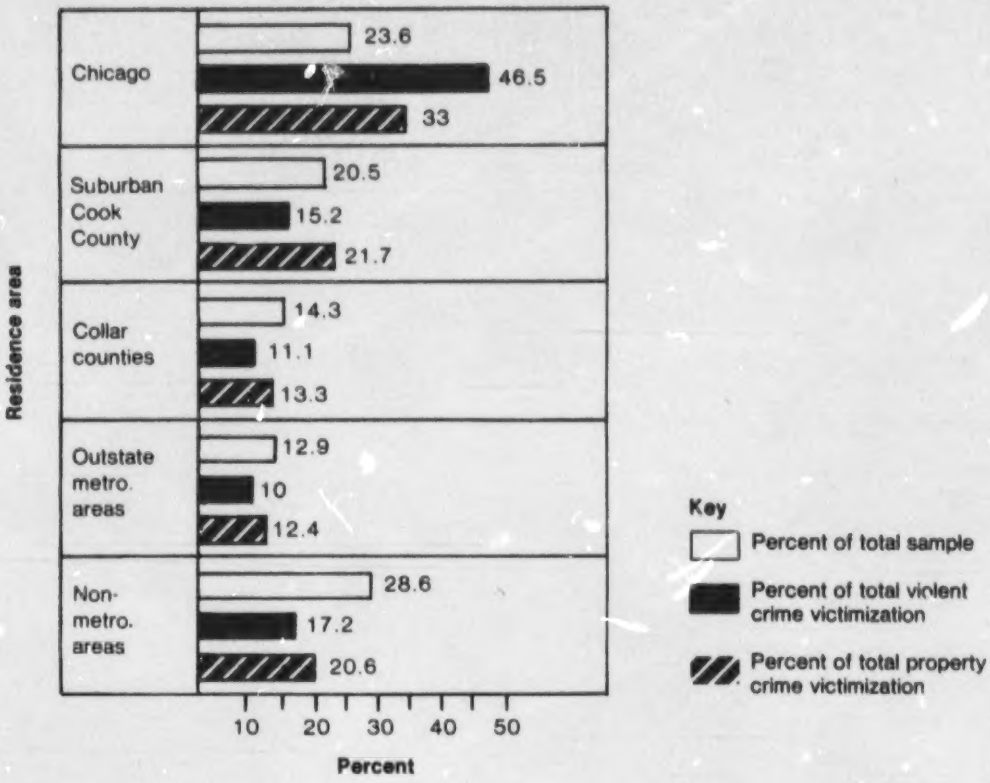


Figure 1. Percentage of total victimization by residence category.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF CRIME VICTIMS

The previous section has shown that persons living in urban places are the most likely to be victims of crime, particularly violent crime. The purpose of this section is to explore the population characteristics of persons who report being victims of crime in order to identify particular segments of the adult population who appear to be the most susceptible to victimization.

Race

Race is a factor in the risk of being the victim of crime. It is evident from Table 2, for instance, that nonwhites experience an above average incidence of both violent- and property-crime victimization.

Almost 24 percent of the nonwhite respondents reported being victims of crime at least once in 1977, whereas only 15.6 percent of the white respondents had been victimized. Almost 3 percent of the nonwhite respondents had been victims of both categories of crime.

Table 2. Relationship Between Respondent's Race and Reported Victimization

Race	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
White	15.6	2.1	14.9	.9	7174
Nonwhite	23.5	4.6	21.7	2.8	1061

Although nonwhite respondents made up only about 13 percent of the sample, 25 percent of all violent-crime victimizations and 18 percent of all property-crime victimizations were reported from this category (Figure 2).

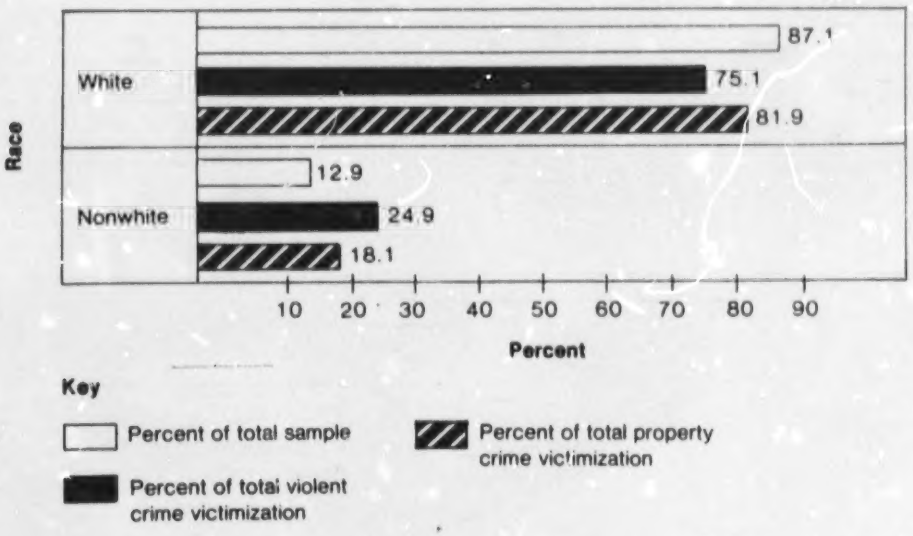


Figure 2. Percentage of total victimizations by race.

These findings clearly indicate that members of nonwhite groups have a higher risk of being victims of crime than do whites, perhaps because nonwhites in Illinois tend to live in heavily urbanized areas. As shown in the previous section, property-crime victimization was twice as likely to occur in Chicago as it was in the rural areas of the state, and violent-crime victimization was three times as likely.

Age

As shown in Table 3, persons in the younger age categories are more likely to be victims of crime than are older persons. One-fifth of the young people aged 18 to 24 and 25 to 34 years report having been the victim of some type of crime during 1977. Reported victimizations generally decline in the older age categories, except that of persons over 65.

Table 3. Relationship Between Respondent's Age and Reported Victimization

Age	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
18-24	20.4	3.5	18.6	1.7	1165
25-34	20.3	2.9	19.0	1.7	1849
35-44	17.7	1.3	17.0	.7	1426
45-54	15.4	1.8	14.4	.8	1355
55-64	13.7	1.7	13.0	1.0	1122
65+	9.8	2.4	8.3	1.0	1308

Younger persons experience a disproportionate amount of violent crime (Figure 3). Slightly over one-half of all the violent crimes reported occurred to victims aged 18 to 34, whereas these groups comprise only 37 percent of the total sample. Property crime appears fairly evenly spread among age categories, although slightly higher than expected for persons aged 25 to 44, and considerably less for persons over 65 years of age.

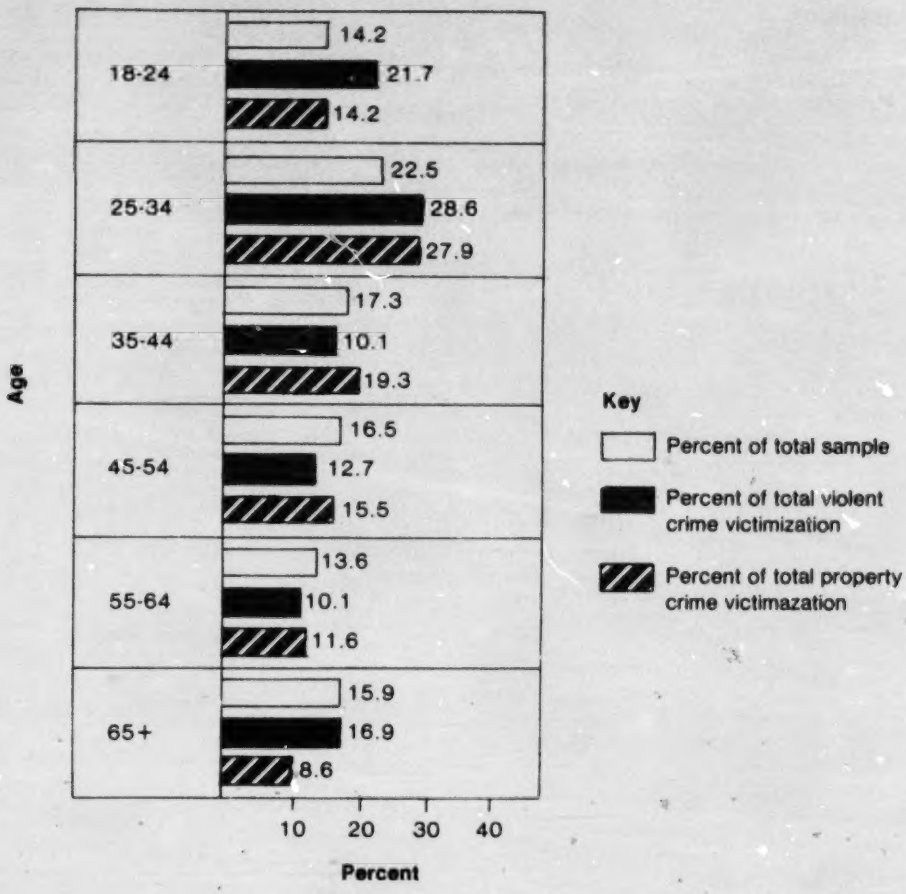


Figure 3. Percentage of total victimization by age.

Sex

Generally, males are more likely than females to be victims of both types of crime (Table 4 and Figure 4). In some parts of the state, however, older females experience victimization rates that equal or slightly exceed the rates

Table 4. Relationship Between Respondent's Sex and Reported Victimization

Sex	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
Male	18.9	2.9	17.5	1.5	3677
Female	14.7	2.0	13.7	1.0	4580

for males in the same age category. These differences are discussed in a later section of this report.

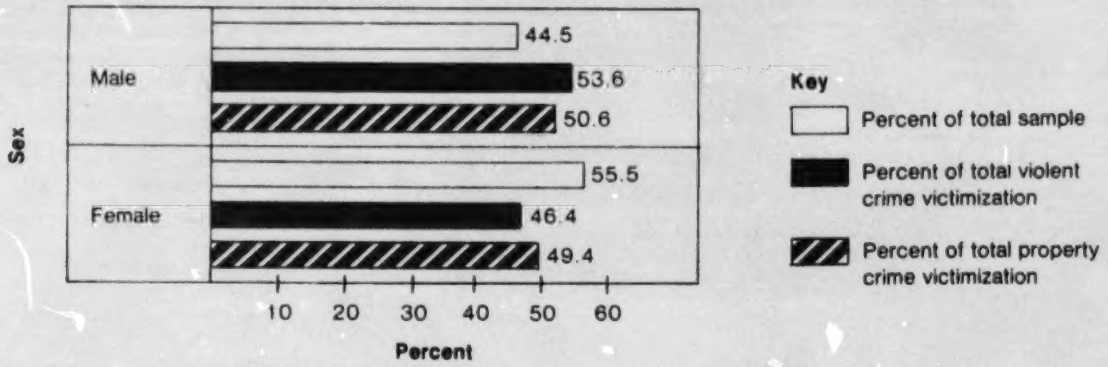


Figure 4. Percentage of total victimization by sex.

Household Income

Persons in low income categories, especially those with annual household incomes of less than $5,000, report high rates of victimization. Almost 7 percent of the respondents in this group reported violent crime victimization and 23 percent, property crime victimization (see Table 5). Low-income respondents were concentrated in the city of Chicago, where, as shown earlier, risk of victimization is the greatest.

Table 5. Relationship Between Respondent's Income and Reported Victimization

Household income	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
< $5,000	26.3	6.9	23.0	3.6	752
$5,000 - 6,999	19.8	4.5	17.7	2.5	400
$7,000 - 8,999	14.6	3.5	12.3	1.3	479
$9,000 - 11,999	16.0	2.2	15.2	1.4	783
$12,000 - 14,999	18.7	2.3	17.7	1.4	868
$15,000 - 19,999	14.7	1.1	14.1	.5	1322
$20,000 - 24,999	15.3	1.9	14.4	1.0	1225
$25,000 - 39,999	15.3	.8	15.1	.6	1232
≥ $40,000	18.0	2.5	16.2	.6	482

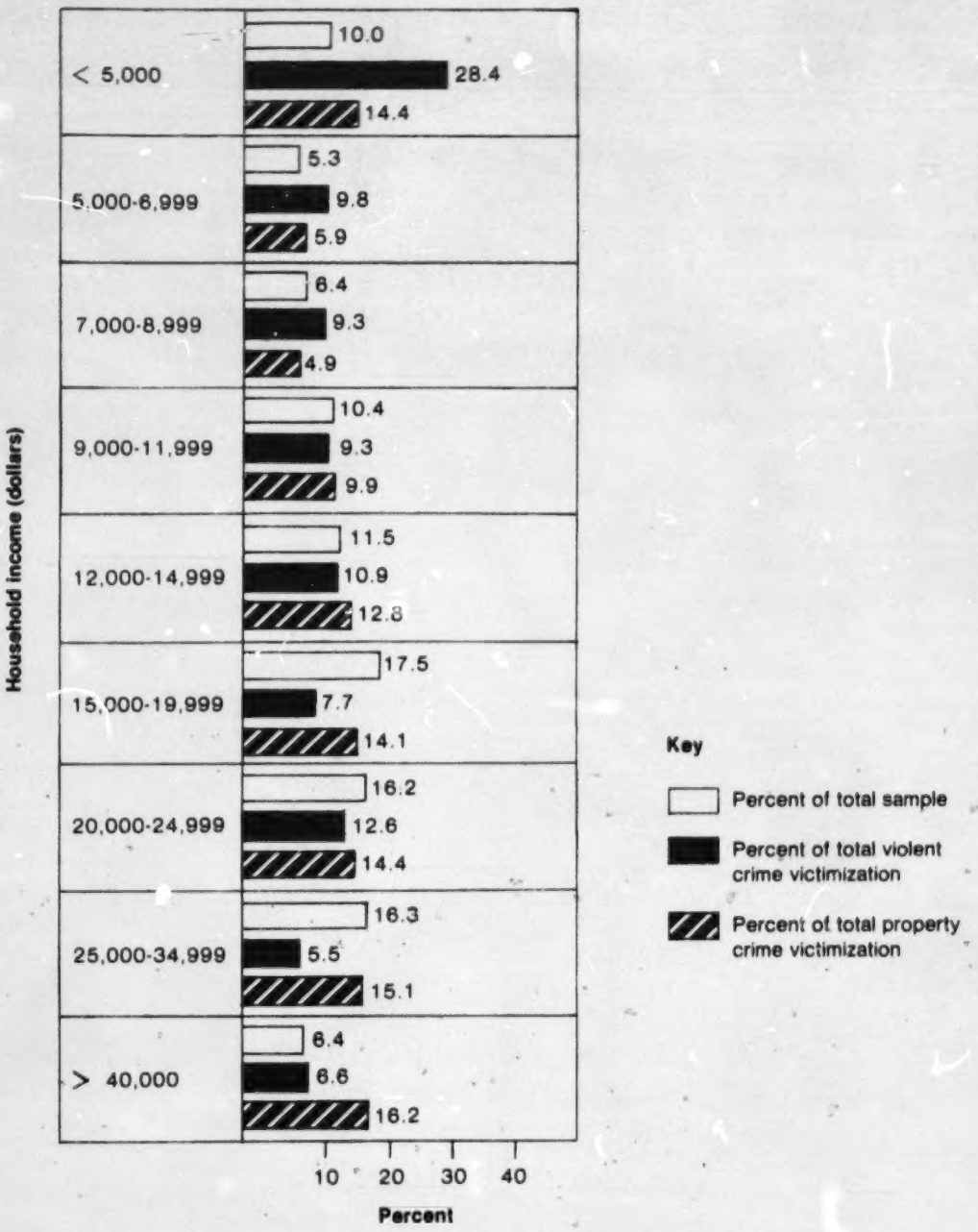


Figure 5. Percentage of total victimizations by household income.

Figure 5 shows the relative distribution of all reported victimizations among income groups. It dramatizes the disproportionate experience of violent crime by low-income persons: although the under $5,000 income group comprises only 10 percent of the sample, 28.4 percent of all reported violent crime victimizations occurred to persons in this category. Property-crime victimizations on the other hand, were more evenly spread across family income categories (Figure 5). However, persons in the highest income group (over $40,000) reported a disproportionate amount of property crime: comprising 6.4 percent of the sample, they acount for 16.2 percent of property victimization.

Level of Education

Adults whose formal education did not exceed the 8th grade show the highest incidence of victimization from violent crime (Table 6 and Figure 6). Persons who have completed college, on the other hand, report the lowest violent crime victimization. Property crime appears more evenly spread. Since level of education is generally correlated with income, the above-average risk of violent crime for persons with little formal education is not surprising. However, the finding that persons in the "some college" classification report a relatively high overall victimization rate is unexpected. A possible explanation may be that individuals who are presently college students are included in this group. College students traditionally fall in the 18 to 24 age bracket, an age category which, as noted earlier, is particularly susceptible to crime victimization.

Table 6. Relationship Between Respondent's Educational Level and Reported Victimization

Educational level	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
≤ 8th grade	16.8	4.4	15.5	3.1	794
Some high school	14.6	2.4	13.1	.9	891
Completed high school	15.3	1.9	14.3	.8	2470
Some college	17.8	2.5	16.6	1.2	2024
Completed College and above	17.7	1.7	17.0	1.0	1800

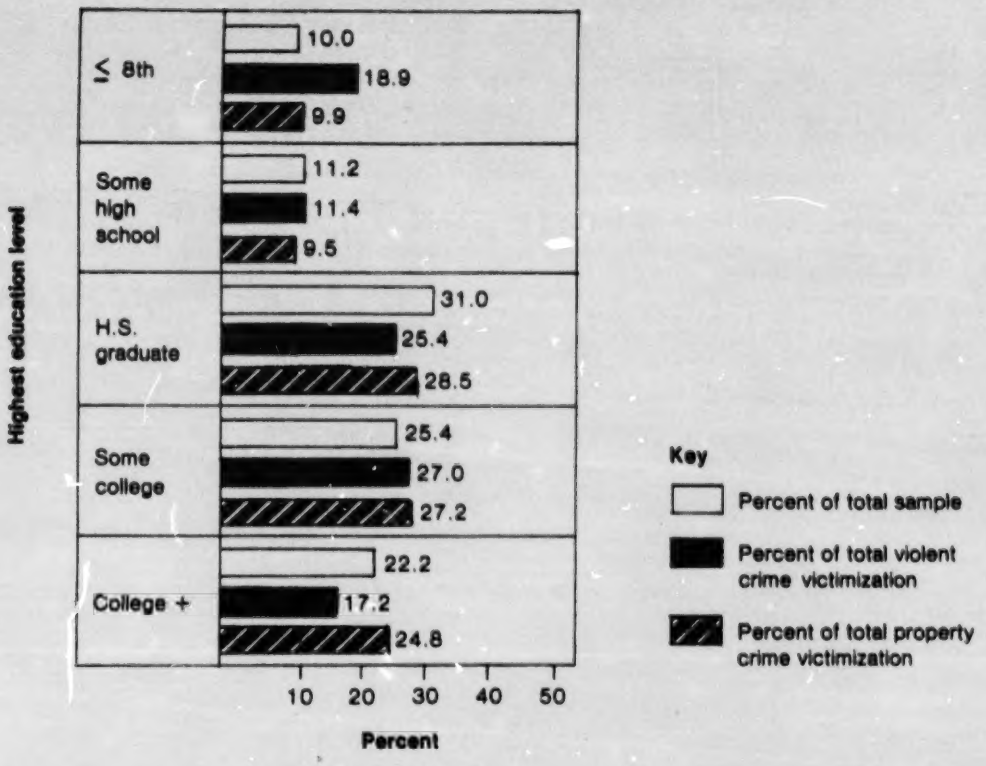


Figure 6. Percentage of total victimizations by education.

Type of Dwelling

Persons who live in apartments and mobile homes reported a high incidence of both types of crime victimization (Table 7). Apartment dwellers experienced violent crime at a rate one and one-half times the state average; for those who live in mobile homes the rate is two and one-half times higher than the state average.

In Figure 7 the greater relative risk of victimization to people living in apartments is evident. Only 21.6 percent of the respondents lived in apartments, but 32.7 percent of all violent-crime victimization and 29.3 percent of all property-crime victimizations were reported by this group.

Table 7. Relationship Between Respondent's Type of Dwelling and Reported Victimization

Dwelling	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
House	14.7	1.9	13.7	.9	6175
Mobile home	21.2	6.2	18.1	3.1	259
Apartment	22.5	3.6	20.9	2.0	1776
(State total)	16.6	2.4	15.4	1.2	8268

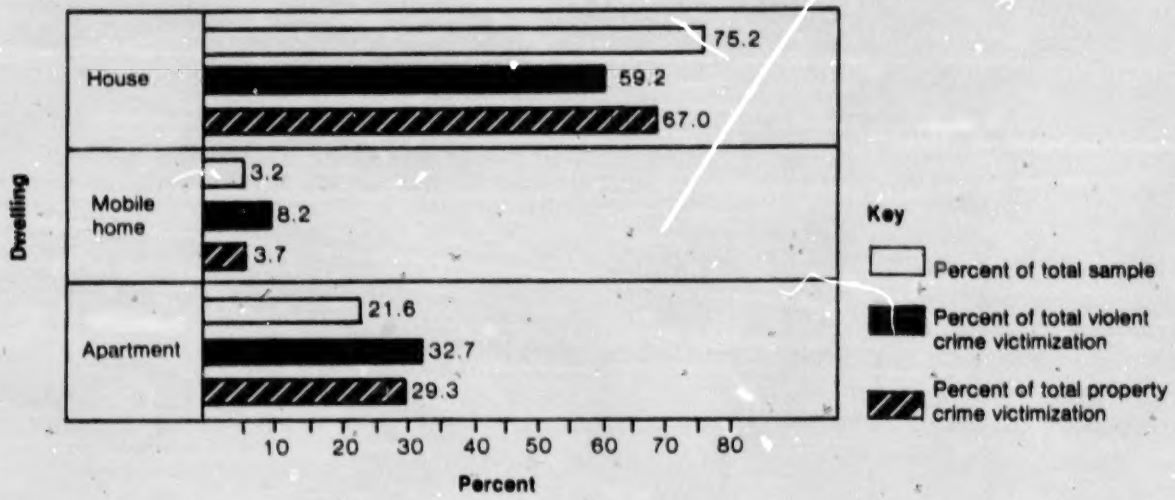


Figure 7. Percentage of total victimization by type of dwelling.

Comparison of Residence, Age, and Sex Categories by Victimization Ratios

The previous sections have shown that victims of crime are disproportionately centered in urban areas and, in particular, Chicago. Also, wide variations were found based on the age and sex of the respondent. Generally males and, in particular, younger males were the likely victims of all types of self-reported crimes. The purpose of this section is to take these three indicators--age, sex, and the Illinois residence categories--and compare each of the variables.

City of Chicago

As shown in Table 8a, there is a wide variation in victimization rates by age and sex of respondent. Generally, males are much more likely than females to be victims, and victimization rates generally decrease with age, except for several important exceptions that are noted below.

Table 8a. Percentage of Respondents Reporting Victimizations, Categorized by Residence, Age, and Sex--Residence Category: City of Chicago (N = 1995)

	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
Males					
18-24	31.1	7.6	27.3	3.8	132
25-34	32.5	5.5	30.0	3.0	200
35-44	27.8	2.6	27.0	1.7	115
45-54	25.0	6.5	21.8	3.2	124
55-64	19.2	7.1	16.2	4.0	99
65+	14.6	4.6	12.3	2.3	130
Females					
18-24	22.6	4.5	20.6	2.5	199
25-34	26.0	4.2	24.9	3.0	265
35-44	23.4	3.3	22.3	2.2	184
45-54	24.6	2.4	23.4	1.2	167
55-64	16.3	4.3	14.2	2.1	141
65+	14.3	4.9	12.6	3.3	182
Statewide totals	16.6	2.4	15.4	1.2	8268

1. The rate of reported violent crimes generally decreases through the 35-44 age group, rises again for the 55-64 age group, and then falls off for those over 65, although it remains higher than the state average.
2. Property-crime rates in Chicago are fairly uniform for males across age groups through 44 years and then drop off sharply for the older age group.

3. About one-third of all Chicago males younger than 35 years of age were victims of some type of crime in 1977. This chance is about 10 percent greater than for the average female living in Chicago.
4. Chicago females from 18-54 years of age report similar property-crime levels, with a dramatic drop for those over 65.
5. For most age groups in Chicago, men are more likely to be victims of crime than women. For males and females over 65 years of age, however, the probabilities are about the same.
6. The 45-54 age category of Chicago females shows the lowest rate of violent crime.

Persons living in Chicago report the highest victimization rates in the state, much of the difference being due to the relative high percentages of violent crime reported.

Suburban Cook County

The area of Cook County outside the city of Chicago shows a lower percentage of reported victimization rates. As shown in Table 8b, however, there is a similar distribution with regard to differences in age and sex. Details of the distribution are noted below:

1. Among males, violent crime is highest for the 18-24 age groups and progressively declines to age 65, where it rises to 2.2 percent.
2. Property crime shows a similar pattern for males, declining from 24 percent for the age group of 18-24 to 12.9 percent for those over 65 years. These figures are well over the state average for ages 18 to 44, and under for ages 45 to 65 and over.
3. Among females living in suburban Cook County, both the violent- and property-crime rates are much lower than for males, with the exceptions that the 25-34 year old group is relatively high and the percentage of violent crime increases slightly for females over 65.

Persons living in suburban Cook County are less likely to be victims of crime than those respondents who live in Chicago. The general patterns are much the same, however, with males--particularly younger males--being the most likely to report crime victimization.

Table 8b. Percentage of Respondents Reporting Victimizations, Categorized by Residence, Age, and Sex--Residence Category: Suburban Cook County (N = 1692)

Age	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
Males					
18-24	25.3	4.8	24.1	3.6	83
25-34	23.9	4.1	23.3	3.5	172
35-44	23.8	2.8	21.7	0.7	143
45-54	12.2	0.7	12.2	0.7	145
55-64	11.6	0	11.6	0	129
65+	12.9	2.2	12.9	2.2	93
Females					
18-24	15.3	1.7	13.6	0	118
25-34	21.5	2.4	20.1	1.0	209
35-44	16.4	0.6	16.4	0.6	171
45-54	12.0	0	12.0	0	167
55-64	10.4	0.9	10.4	0.9	114
65+	5.4	1.5	4.6	0.8	130
Statewide totals	16.6	2.4	15.4	1.2	8268

Collar Counties

The counties adjoining Cook County (Will, Kane, McHenry, DuPage, and Lake) are experiencing many urban influences as present towns grow and subdivisions occupy former farmlands. Crime victimization rates in this area are generally lower than for both the city of Chicago and suburban Cook County (see Table 8c). Because these counties have been rural areas in the past, it would be expected that reported victimization rates would be lower in these areas of mixed rural and urban land uses.

Table 8c. Percentage of Respondents Reporting Victimizations, Categorized by Residence, Age, and Sex--Residence Category: Collar Counties (N = 1185)

Age	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
Males					
18-24	14.8	2.5	14.8	2.5	81
25-34	23.1	4.2	21.0	2.1	143
35-44	20.9	0	20.9	0	91
45-54	14.5	1.8	13.6	0.9	110
55-64	8.3	0	8.3	0	72
65+	11.8	2.0	9.8	0	51
Females					
18-24	13.4	2.4	12.2	1.2	82
25-34	15.4	2.1	14.7	1.4	143
35-44	11.9	0	11.9	0	143
45-54	14.6	1.9	14.6	1.9	103
55-64	14.3	1.2	14.3	1.2	84
65+	12.7	2.5	10.1	0	79
Statewide totals	16.6	2.4	15.4	1.2	8268

1. In suburban areas, younger people are less likely to report property crime than people in other age categories. This configuration is contrary to the statewide pattern, where reported crime victimization generally declines with increased age.
2. Consistent with the statewide pattern, however, is the slight increase in violent crime victimization among persons 65 years of age and older.

Outstate Metropolitan Areas

As shown in Table 8d, persons in the outstate metropolitan areas report victimization at rates generally higher than those of the state as a whole. Outstate metropolitan areas include only urban concentrations of more than 50,000 persons outside the Chicago metropolitan area.

Table 8d. Percentage of Respondents Reporting Victimizations, Categorized by Residence, Age, and Sex--Residence Category: Outstate Metropolitan Areas (N = 1068)

Age	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
Males					
18-24	32.4	4.2	29.6	1.4	71
25-34	19.2	2.9	17.3	1.0	104
35-44	18.3	1.4	18.3	1.4	71
45-54	17.5	2.5	15.0	0	80
55-64	14.7	0	14.7	0	68
65+	16.2	2.9	13.2	0	68
Females					
18-24	15.9	2.3	15.9	2.3	88
25-34	16.1	.6	16.1	.6	161
35-44	12.7	1.1	11.6	0	95
45-54	7.9	0	7.9	0	89
55-64	15.3	2.8	15.3	2.8	72
65+	7.1	1.0	6.1	0	98
Statewide totals	16.6	2.4	15.4	1.2	8268

1. Reported property-crime victimization tends to be much higher than the state average, particularly among males. For males aged 18 to 24 years it is the highest in the state. Property crime falls sharply for other age groups among males, and is lowest for the 65-and-over age group.
2. Property crime for females is lower than for males and generally declines with age. Females in the 55- to 64-year-old group, however, experience a dramatic increase in property crime, which exceeds the rate for males in that age group.
3. Reported violent crime in outstate metropolitan areas is highest for males aged 18 to 24, a pattern that is generally consistent with other residence categories. For females, however, reported violent crime is highest in the 55- to 64-year-old category.

Nonmetropolitan Areas

The rest of the state, as shown in an earlier portion of this report, was placed in this category, which includes small towns, open country, and rural areas. As shown earlier, the rates of reported crime were lower in the nonmetropolitan area than in other categories, although property crime appears more uniformly spread within the state than is violent crime (see Table 8e).

Table 8e. Percentage of Respondents Reporting Victimizations, Categorized by Residence, Age, and Sex--Residence Category: Nonmetropolitan Areas (N = 2368)

Age	Victim of crime (percent)	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
Males					
18-24	18.4	2.7	16.4	.7	146
25-34	16.4	1.9	15.5	1.0	207
35-44	12.8	.6	12.8	.6	180
45-54	16.0	1.2	15.4	.6	169
55-64	16.8	.6	16.2	0	167
65+	7.1	1.9	5.7	.5	211
Females					
18-24	15.8	1.8	14.0	0	164
25-34	8.2	1.2	7.0	0	244
35-44	12.9	.4	12.5	0	232
45-54	9.7	1.5	8.2	0	196
55-64	10.3	.6	9.7	0	175
65+	5.6	1.1	4.5	0	264
Statewide total	16.6	2.4	15.4	1.2	8268

Except for males aged 18-24, overall crime victimization rates are close to or below the state averages.

Summary of Population Characteristics of Victims

Crime is an important problem in Illinois as seen from the standpoint of the victim. These victims, however, are not uniformly spread throughout the state, but rather are concentrated in the cities and among certain racial and age categories. Specific findings are summarized below:

1. The ILLINOIS: *Today and Tomorrow study found that 16.6 percent of* all respondents admitted to being the victim of some type of crime during 1977. Property crime was the leading category, with 15.4 percent reporting victimization.
2. While the 2.4 percent reporting violent-crime victimization may appear small by comparison, this figure represents 198 persons out of the total 8,268 persons responding, and half of these people had also been victims of property crimes.
3. Reported victimization is highest for persons living in the most urban parts of Illinois, particularly in the city of Chicago, and lowest for those living in small cities and towns, in the open country, and on the farm.
4. Persons appearing most vulnerable to crime victimization are persons who are nonwhite, male, under 35 years of age, with the lowest family income (particularly the under-$5,000 income group), least educated, and living in apartments or trailer courts.
5. Reported violent crime generally decreases in successively older age categories, but rises again for persons over 65 years of age (especially in the city of Chicago) although property crime does not.
6. Property crime is high for the high-income categories. Although victims of property crime appear evenly distributed throughout the state, approximately one-fifth of all reported property-crime victimization occurred in the nonmetropolitan areas.

COMPARISON OF VICTIMIZATION AMONG COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE REGIONS

A further indication of rural-urban differences in the extent of crime in Illinois is obtained when the results are examined by the 10 University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service regions (Chicago and Cook County are treated separately from the rest of Region 2). Figure 8 shows the location of these regions and the proportion of respondents in each region who admit to being the victim of either category of crime at least once during 1977.

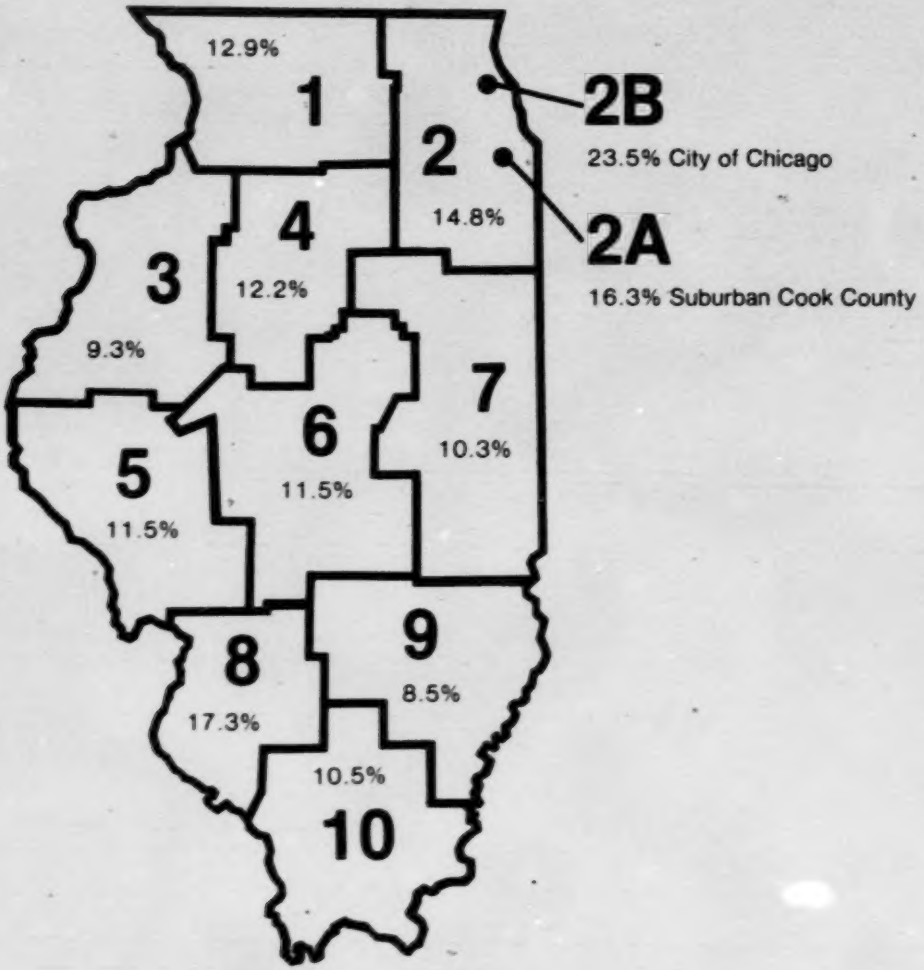


*Table 9. Percentage of the Illinois Population Admitting to Criminal Victimization in 1977 by Cooperative Extension Service Region**

	Victim of violent crime (percent)	Victim of property crime (percent)	Victim of both crimes (percent)	Number of cases
Region 1	1.8	12.2	1.1	556
Region 2	1.7	14.0	1.0	1339
Region 2a (suburban Cook Co.)	1.8	15.6	1.1	1692
Region 2b (Chicago)	4.7	21.5	2.7	1995
Region 3	1.1	8.4	0.2	464
Region 4	1.1	11.3	0.2	548
Region 5	0.4	11.3	0.2	468
Region 6	1.7	10.1	0.3	643
Region 7	1.1	9.6	0.4	552
Region 8	2.0	15.7	0.5	654
Region 9	1.1	7.9	0.4	458
Region 10	1.8	9.2	0.5	564

*Based on *TOTAL* sample, 9,892 responses. Region 2 excludes Cook County. Region 2a includes suburban Cook County; Region 2b includes the city of Chicago only.

In Table 9, the categories of crime victimization are shown. Property crime accounted for most of the victimization reported for all regions, with the highest incidence reported for highly urbanized Regions 2b and 8, and the lowest incidence reported for more rural Regions 3 and 9. Regions 2b and 8 also report the highest incidence of violent-crime victimization.

Extension regions with high ratios of rural to urban populations tend to have a lower proportion of respondents reporting victimization. Table 10 identifies the counties that comprise each region and shows the rural-urban ratio of the population based on 1970 census data. Most of the respondents who reported being victims of crime reside in the most urban regions (Regions 2b, 2a, 2, 8, 1, and 4). Each of these regions contains or is adjacent to a major industrial metropolitan area: Rockford (Region 1); Chicago (Regions 2, 2a, and 2b); Peoria (Region 4); and St. Louis (Region 8). Respondents from Region 9, which has the most rural population, reported the least victimization. There is, however, a certain amount of deviation from this pattern: Region 3 is 64 percent urban but ranks low in reported victimization; and Region 5, which is only 46 percent urban, ranks fairly high.

An examination of the Cooperative Extension Service regions supports the conclusions about rural-urban differences noted earlier. Generally, rural regions report less crime. Property crime, however, is more evenly distributed. While the averages of some regions are somewhat below those for the state, they are not dramatically lower. Violent crime, on the other hand, is not a widespread problem outside of Chicago and other metropolitan areas.

Table 10. Rural-Urban Ratio of Counties in Cooperative Extension Service Regions (based on 1970 census data)

Region	County	Urban* (percent)	Rural† (percent)	Victim of crime (percent)	Rank Order
2b	Chicago (separated from Cook County)	100	--	23.5	1
2a	Cook County (excluding Chicago)	99	1	16.3	3
2	DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, Will	80	20	14.8	4
8	Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington	71	29	17.3	2
1	Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago	66	34	12.9	5
3	Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford	66	34	12.2	6
6	Christian, DeWitt, Logan, Macon, Montgomery, McLean, Mason, Menard, Moultrie, Sangamon, Shelby	65	35	11.5	8
3	Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Knox, McDonough, Mercer, Rock Island, Warren	64	36	9.3	11
7	Champaign, Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, Piatt, Vermilion	58	42	10.3	10
5	Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, Pike, Schuyler, Scott	46	54	11.5	7
10	Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Williamson	46	54	10.5	9
9	Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion, Richland, Wabash, Wayne, White	39	61	8.5	12

*Above 2,500 population. †2,500 population or less, open country, farm.

PERCEPTIONS OF POLICE PROTECTION

In the community-problem section of the ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow questionnaire, respondents were asked if police protection was a problem in their communities and, if so, whether the problem was "small, medium, or serious." It was found that the problem of police protection was perceived as a medium-to-serious problem by approximately one-third of all respondents, regardless of actual reported victimization. In Chicago, however, over half of all respondents felt that adequacy of police protection was a medium-to-serious problem (Table 11).

Table 11. Police Protection as a Community Problem

Region	Victims (percent)	Police protection seen as a medium-to-serious problem (percent)
Region 2b (Chicago)	23.5	52.5
Region 8	17.3	31.4
Region 2a (Suburban Cook County)	16.3	26.2
Region 2	14.8	25.8
Region 1	12.9	27.5
Region 4	12.2	33.0
Region 5	11.5	36.0
Region 6	11.5	38.1
Region 10	10.5	43.9
Region 7	10.3	32.2
Region 3	9.3	33.6
Region 9	8.5	31.2

Assuming satisfaction with police protection as a projective measure of a sense of personal safety, it would appear that a significant number of persons do not feel secure with respect to crime.

Persons who have been crime victims tend to be more critical of police protection than nonvictims (Table 12). Regarding violent crime in Chicago, however, it is the nonvictims who express greater dissatisfaction, suggesting a high level of concern about the risk of victimization among urban dwellers.

Table 12. Police Protection as a Community Problem, Categorized by Residence

	Victims (percent)	Police protection seen as a medium-to-serious problem (percent)
Chicago		
Violent crimes		
Victims	4.7	51.7
Nonvictims	95.3	68.2
Property crimes		
Victims	21.5	59.6
Nonvictims	78.5	50.5
Suburban Cook County		
Violent crimes		
Victims	1.8	26.6
Nonvictims	98.2	16.0
Property crimes		
Victims	15.6	21.5
Nonvictims	84.4	15.2
Collar counties		
Violent crimes		
Victims	1.9	36.4
Nonvictims	98.1	25.2
Property crimes		
Victims	14.3	23.4
Nonvictims	85.7	36.7
Outstate metropolitan areas		
Violent crimes		
Victims	1.9	55.0
Nonvictims	98.1	33.0
Property crimes		
Victims	14.8	40.4
Nonvictims	85.2	32.2
Nonmetropolitan areas		
Violent crimes		
Victims	1.4	41.2
Nonvictims	98.6	33.4
Property crime		
Victims	11.1	41.1
Nonvictims	88.9	32.6

APPENDIX A--HOW THE INFORMATION WAS GATHERED

The ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow study began in late summer 1977. To identify the major issues facing the state, the research team met with representatives of state agencies, legislative staffs, regional-planning organizations, the Cooperative Extension Service, the Chicago Department of Planning, and interest groups such as the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, and the Illinois Farm Bureau. Persons contacted were given a preliminary list of specific community problems, possible programs for new tax money, legislative issues, and energy questions. Each was asked to circulate the list within his organization for further staff comment. From such inputs (about 100 representatives of the above organizations and agencies took part), the research team drafted a questionnaire that was mailed to a pretest sample of the general population selected from Peoria, Chicago, and rural Champaign County. In addition, telephone and personal interviews were conducted with a selected sample from the Champaign-Urbana area. Based on the above procedures, a 12-page printed mail questionnaire was developed.

Sample Selection

From the list of licensed drivers, a statewide sample of 15,000 persons was selected to represent all adults in Illinois. The sample size was chosen to ensure the return of approximately 8,000 usable questionnaires (about one questionnaire for every 1,000 adults in the state). The actual return was one questionnaire for every 914 adults.

The contribution to the sample from each county is in proportion to that county's share of the state's population. For example, Tazewell County, which has about 1 percent of the state's population, contributed 163 questionnaires to the sample, while Lake County, with approximately 3 percent of Illinois's population, contributed 525.

In addition to apportionment by county, the sample was also proportioned by sex and age (those 18 to 64 years of age and those 65 and older). For example, 86 percent of Tazewell County's population is 18 to 64 years of age; therefore, 86 percent of the names selected were in that age range and 14 percent were 65 and older. In the under 65 group, 51 percent of Tazewell's population is female; 49 percent is male. There are more women than men over 65. When Tazewell County's sample of 163 people was selected, the computer was instructed to randomly choose 69 males and 72 females from 18 to 64 years of age and 9 males and 13 females from the 65-years-and-older group. The same procedures were repeated for each county.

In Chicago, population estimates were available by age, race, and sex for each of the 60 zip-code areas. Therefore, each zip-code area was treated as a county, with the number of questionnaires sent proportional to that area's share of the city's population.

In addition to the 15,000 people chosen for the statewide sample, another 2,500 people were selected for data analysis on a county and regional basis. Additional people were chosen so that there would be a large enough sample in less-populous regions to present information for each county.

Mailing Procedures and Response Rates

The printed questionnaire and return envelope, along with a cover letter explaining the purpose of the study, were mailed to the sample on January 11, 1978. A follow-up postcard was mailed the following week, thanking those who had answered and encouraging those who had not completed the questionnaire to do so. On February 8, a follow-up letter with a replacement questionnaire was sent to all who had not yet responded. On March 1, a personally addressed certified letter with a replacement questionnaire was sent to all who had not responded. As a result of the above procedures, a 68.6 percent response rate for the entire sample was obtained.

Sample Reliability

A total of 9,900 usable responses was received. The representative statewide sample included 8,268 usable questionnaires. Comparisons with the 1970 Census and 1975 population estimates show that the sample adequately reflects the Illinois adult population in relation to sex, age, race, and marital status.

The reliability of the state and regional samples is ± 1 percent. For instance, the study showed that 29.1 percent of the respondents said that upkeep of local roads was a serious problem. A confidence limit of ± 1 percent means that if 17,500 different people were selected using the same procedures, 99 times out of 100 the percent of people rating that problem as serious would fall between 28.1 and 30.1.

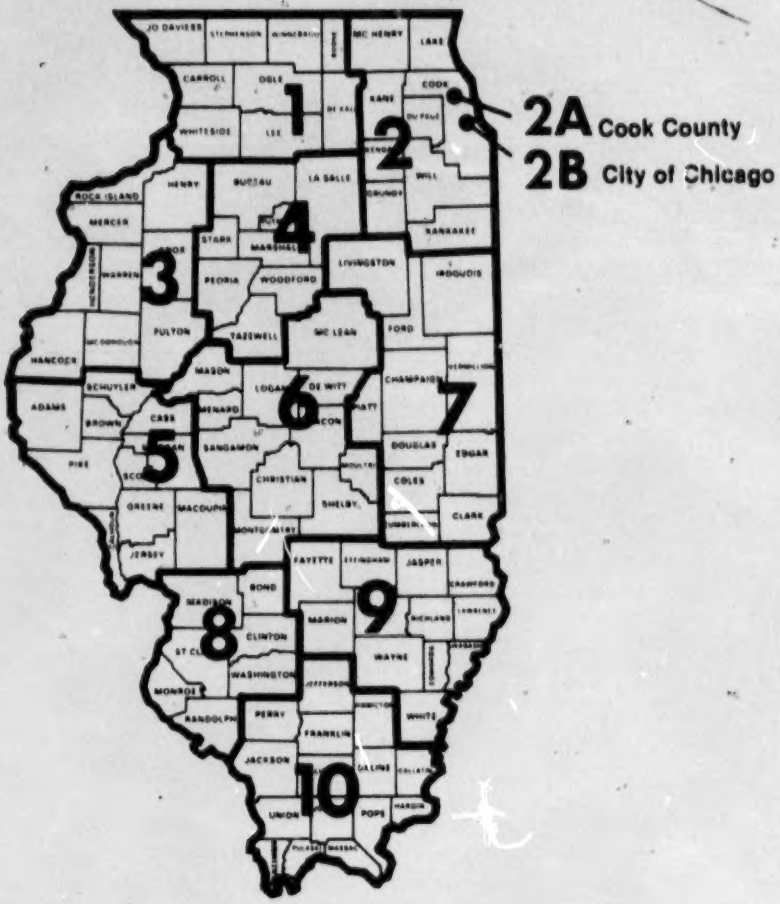
	Initial Sample Size	*Reachable Sample*	*Usable Returns*	*Return Rates (%)*	*Level of Confidence (%)*
Statewide	15,107	12,096	8,268	68	99
Region 1	874	739	556	75	99
Region 2	2,393	1,936	1,339	69	99
Region 2A	3,039	2,501	1,692	68	99
Region 2B	4,366	3,284	1,956	60	99
Region 3	738	629	464	74	99
Region 4	877	766	548	72	99
Region 5	706	635	468	74	99
Region 6	1,030	887	643	72	99
Region 7	900	750	552	74	99
Region 8	1,015	873	654	75	99
Region 9	731	637	458	72	99
Region 10	929	803	564	70	99

APPENDIX B--PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Information about the demography and background characteristics of the ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow survey respondents is helpful when interpreting the survey findings. The demographic profile of survey respondents is presented below.

	State (percent)
1. *Sex*	
Male	45.0
Female	55.0
	100.0
2. *Age*	
18 to 24	14.2
25 to 34	22.4
35 to 44	17.3
45 to 54	16.5
55 to 64	13.7
65+	15.9
	100.0
Median	42.0 years
3. *Race*	
White	87.1
Black	9.9
Latino and other	3.0
	100.0
4. *Formal education*	
8th grade or less	10.0
Some high school	11.2
Completed high school	30.9
Some college	25.4
Completed college	22.5
	100.0
Median	11.9 years
5. *Marital status*	
Never married	15.9
Married	70.3
Separated	1.7
Divorced	5.0
Widowed	7.1
	100.0
6. *Employment status*	
Employed	61.6
Unemployed	4.1
Full-time homemaker	15.3
Full-time student	3.8
Retired	13.4
Disabled	1.8
	100.0

	State (percent)
7. *Occupation category*	
Professional and technical	16.2
Students	3.4
Managers, administrators, self-employed	8.6
Farmers, farm managers, foremen, laborers	2.2
Sales and clerical workers	20.8
Craftsmen	8.7
Service workers	6.7
Operatives and transport workers	5.6
Laborers and private household workers	3.8
Homemakers	15.1
Other	8.9
	100.0
8. *Family income*	
Less than $5,000	10.0
$5,000 to 8,999	11.7
$9,000 to 11,999	10.4
$12,000 to 14,999	11.5
$15,000 to 19,999	17.5
$20,000 to 24,999	16.2
$25,000 to 39,999	16.3
$40,000 or more	6.4
	100.0
Median	$16,688
9. *Type of home*	
House	75.2
Mobile home	3.2
Apartment, condominium, duplex	21.6
	100.0
10. *Own or Rent*	
Own	72.5
Rent	27.5
	100.0
11. *Years in community*	
1 year	4.7
2 to 5 years	16.3
6+ years	79.0
	100.0
Median	18.4 years
12. *Size of community*	
City of Chicago	23.2
Suburb of Chicago	27.6
City of 50,000 to 250,000	10.0
City of 10,000 to 50,000	13.5
Town of 2,500 to 10,000	9.6
Town of less than 2,500	7.0
Open country	4.1
Farm	5.0
	100.0



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This report is one of a series of publications containing the survey findings. Further information can be obtained by writing the Illinois Cooperative Extension Service, 212 Mumford Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801, or *ILLINOIS: Today and Tomorrow* 408 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, Illinois 61801.